

STATE ADMINISTRATION

Exhibit No. 3Date 1-29-07Bill No. SB-232

Honorable Chairwoman and members of the committee:

My name is Becky Stockton and I reside in Helena, Montana.

First of all, I would like to thank Senator McGee for amending this change into our current Montana statute to include 'the changing of political party affiliation' as amended in SB 232. I am in favor of this bill with some amendments to it.

With this part amended into law, it will give the voters in that district the control over whom they want to represent them even during a mid-term election. This would stop a certain legislator or public officer from taking into his or her hands the direction of the so said party. We have 100 Representatives, 50 Senators and one Governor. It takes 151 elected individuals, who represent the voters of their districts to cast their votes accordingly for the betterment of their district and for the state of Montana. This is called a representative government. When one elected public official takes into his or hers hands a decision to change political party to affect the outcome of what the voters had decided after a election has been completed, that to me is called totalitarian rule. Totalitarian is defined in the New World Webster's dictionary as "noting or pertaining to a government in which one party exercises dictatorial control." Where have we ever decided in the U.S. Constitution or the Montana Constitution that it was alright for one person, political party or elected public officer to decide who runs what legislative chamber or public office for our state?

There is two additional items that I, a voter of Montana would like to amend to this bill. One, on page 2, line one – I would suggest to delete the word "may" be recalled to "will" be recalled, and two, if a elected public official chooses to change political parties in the middle of his or hers term, that the elected public official shall pay for his or hers recall election. These so called amending items show how strongly I feel about this issue as a voter. I don't want my vote to be taken away from me.

Amending this ^{law} ~~bill~~ will keep the integrity of the voting process and retain the voters trust in the individual that is representing their district and not be disenfranchised.

Thank you for giving me the chance to speak today on this bill.

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